(b) if so, whether it is a fact that the two major bodies of drug industry have asked the Ministry to speedily dispose of price review applications from various companies, which have been lying uncleared since October, 1989;

(c) what are the main reasons for the delay in the disposal of such applications by the Ministry; and

(d) by when a final decision is likely to be taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) to (d) On receiving a number of representations from various forums on the issues concerning the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1987 including the steep increase in the prices of the medicines, the new Government decided to review the situation. Government has now started clearing price approval applications.

Indo Soviet cooperation in oil industry

2197. SHRI SHANTI TYAGI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a protocol was signed at the 8th meeting of the Indo-Soviet Working Group on cooperation in oil industry;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what are the details of the programme of oil exploration to be undertaken thereunder?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M.S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The protocol provides for a detailed programme of work in the intensive Integrated Exploration projects in the North Cambay and Cauvery Basins. In the North Cambay Basin, 3100 line kms. of seismic survey has been completed. 20 exploratory wells have been drilled and 2 are under drilling out of 26 envisaged under the project. Further drilling of wells will depend on assessment of commercial viability of the two wells under production testing. In the Cauvery Basin, 20 exploratory wells are to be drilled in the first phase. The protocol also provides for speeding up of pace of data acquisition under the intensive integrated Exploration project for the West Bengal Basin. The protocol also provides for training of Indian experts in the USSR and establishment of a third computer centre at Jorhat. It envisages long-term programme of cooperation between the Research and Development Institutes of the two countries.

Signing of MOU with Maruti Udyog Limited

2198. SHRI SHANTI TYAGI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Maruti Udyog Limited has signed a memorandum of undertaking with Government for the year 1990-91; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Memorandum of Understanding gives the Company's mission, its objectives and contains the operational and financial targets that it has undertaken to achieve along with their evaluation criteria. The MOU also lays down the frequency of evaluation and information flow as well as the Government's commitments.

Vayudoot flights

2199. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of Vaudoot flights being planned for Andhra Pradesh during the current financial year;

(b) whether it is a fact that there have been frequent cancellation of flights by Vaudoot all over the country;

(c) what steps are being taken to avoid such a situation by introducing back up flights;